

except: (a) As otherwise provided by the Administration for good cause found and published in the FEDERAL REGISTER or (b) in the case of rules granting or recognizing exemption or relieving restriction, interpretative rules, and statements of policy.

### **Subpart G—Formal Proceedings, Notice, Pleadings, Replies (Rule 7)**

#### **§ 201.71 Commencement of proceedings.**

Formal proceedings may be commenced with respect to any phase of an application for Government aid or other relief, the processing of which by statute requires a public hearing. The Administration may, in its discretion, also direct the holding of a hearing not required by statute for any purpose authorized in the statutes it administers.

#### **§ 201.72 Notice.**

Notice of any matter which may result in or involves the institution of a formal proceeding will be given by publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER in sufficient detail and in sufficient time to apprise interested persons of the nature of the issues to be heard and to allow for an opportunity to file petitions for leave to intervene.

#### **§ 201.73 Joinder of proceedings.**

(a) Two or more matters which have been set for hearing by the Administration, and which involve similar issues, may be consolidated for the purpose of hearing. Such consolidation may, at the discretion of the Administration, or Presiding Officer after hearing has been ordered, be ordered upon petition of any party to said hearing or upon the initiative of the Administration.

(b) A petition to consolidate shall be filed not later than the first prehearing conference in the proceeding with which consolidation is requested, and shall relate only to then pending applications. If made at such conference, the petition may be oral. A petition which is not timely filed shall be dismissed unless the petitioner shall clearly show good cause for the failure to file said petition on time. A petition which does not relate to an application pending at the time of or before a prehearing conference in a proceeding

with which consolidation is requested, shall likewise be dismissed unless the petitioner shall clearly show good cause for a failure to file the application within the prescribed period.

#### **§ 201.74 Declaratory orders.**

The Administration may issue a declaratory order to terminate a proceeding or to remove uncertainty. Petitions for the issuance thereof shall state clearly and concisely the nature of the controversy or uncertainty, shall cite the statutory authority involved, shall include a complete statement of the facts and grounds supporting the petition, together with a full disclosure of petitioner's interest.

#### **§ 201.75 Petitions—general.**

All petitions shall be written and shall state the petitioner's grounds of interest in the subject matter, the facts relied upon, and the relief sought, and shall cite the authority upon which the petition rests. The petition shall be served upon all parties named therein or affected thereby. Answers to petitions may be filed.

#### **§ 201.76 Applications for Government aid.**

Applications for operating-differential subsidies, charter of Government-owned vessels, and other types of Government aid shall conform to the requirements set forth in the various general orders and other regulations of the Administration specifically provided therefor.

#### **§ 201.77 Amendments or supplements to pleadings.**

Amendments or supplements to any pleading will be allowed or refused in the discretion of the Administration if the case has not been assigned for hearing, otherwise in the discretion of the presiding officer designated to conduct the hearing; *Provided*, That after a prehearing conference has been held no amendment shall be allowed which would substantially broaden the issues, unless an opportunity is afforded all parties to answer such amended pleadings and to prepare for hearing upon the broadened issues. The presiding officer may direct a party to state its case more fully and in more detail by